

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (new): A voltage multiplier comprising a plurality of successive stages including a first stage and at least one successive stage, each stage including:

- an input terminal for receiving an input voltage and an output terminal for outputting an output voltage, the input terminal of the first stage connectable to a voltage source, the input terminal of each successive stage coupled to the output terminal of its immediately preceding stage for receiving an output voltage produced by its immediately preceding stage;

- a capacitive circuit having first and second terminals of opposite polarities;

- a first switch coupled to said first terminal for selectively coupling said first terminal to one of said input terminal and said output terminal; and

- a second switch coupled to said second terminal for selectively coupling said second terminal to one of a common terminal and said input terminal, wherein the first and second switches of each stage are controllable to alternate between a charging state in which said first terminal is coupled to said input terminal and said second terminal is coupled to said common terminal and an output state in which said first terminal is coupled to said output terminal and said second terminal is coupled to said input terminal.

Claim 22 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, wherein the capacitive circuit includes a single capacitor.

Claim 23 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, wherein the capacitive circuit includes a plurality of electrical components that together form a desired capacitance.

Claim 24 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, wherein the common terminal is a ground terminal.

Claim 25 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, wherein a predetermined voltage is stored in the capacitive circuit during the charging state and the output voltage produced during the output state is substantially equal to the input voltage plus the stored voltage.

Claim 26 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 25, wherein the stored voltage is substantially equal to the input voltage and the output voltage is substantially equal to twice the input voltage.

Claim 27 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, wherein at least one stage further comprises an output reservoir capacitor coupled between said output terminal and said common terminal.

Claim 28 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 21, further comprising:

a controller for controlling the first and second switches of each stage to alternate between the charging state and the output state.

Claim 29 (new): A voltage multiplier according to claim 28, wherein the controller is configured to control the first and second switches of the first stage at a first switching frequency and to control the first and second switches of each successive stage at approximately half the switching frequency of its immediately preceding stage.